Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a longitudinal direction, a transverse direction, a vertical direction substantially normal to both the longitudinal and transverse directions, and a body side, the absorbent article comprising:

a) an absorbent core having a body side surface, the absorbent core comprising an outer absorbent member having a ~~central~~ void centrally disposed therein, the centrally disposed void open toward the body side of the absorbent article, and a central absorbent member disposed over the ~~central~~ centrally disposed void of the outer absorbent member and extending into the centrally disposed void; and

b) a wicking barrier disposed between the outer absorbent member and the central absorbent member, the wicking barrier comprising a vertical component and a horizontal component, the vertical component spanning a vertical distance between the outer absorbent member and the central absorbent member, and the horizontal component spanning a horizontal distance on the body side surface of the absorbent core.

2. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein the wicking barrier is liquid pervious.

3. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 2, wherein the wicking barrier comprises an apertured polymeric film.

4. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 2, wherein the wicking barrier comprises a spunbond web.

5. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 2, wherein the wicking barrier has a liquid permeability gradient such that the wicking barrier is more liquid permeable away from the body side of the article.

6. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein the wicking barrier is a fluid impervious film provided with fluid pervious pores remote from the body side surface of the absorbent core.

7. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 6, wherein the pores in the wicking barrier are about 1 mm or greater below the surface of the outer absorbent member.

8. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein the central absorbent member further comprises an outer perimeter and a center, and the wicking barrier is adapted to establish a pathway for fluid flow from the center of the central absorbent member to the outer perimeter of the central absorbent member.

9. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein the wicking barrier comprises multiple vertical layers of barrier material.

10. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, further comprising a topsheet, wherein the topsheet is provided with at least one fold to form an elevated runoff barrier.

11. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein the central absorbent member comprises a plurality of vertically oriented layers of nonabsorbent material.

12. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 11, wherein the central absorbent member further comprises an outer edge and a centermost region, and wherein lateral wicking flow from the centermost region of the central absorbent member to the outer edge of the central absorbent member is possible via a path between the plurality of vertically oriented layers of nonabsorbent material.

13. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the central absorbent member comprises a spiral wound composite having at least one layer of absorbent material and at least one layer of barrier material wound together in a spiral form.

14. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the central absorbent member comprises a composite having multiple vertical layers of barrier material alternating with layers of absorbent material.

15. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article with a crotch region, a longitudinal direction, a transverse direction, and a vertical direction substantially normal to both the longitudinal and transverse directions, the absorbent article comprising:

a) an absorbent core having a body side surface, the absorbent core comprising a central absorbent member and an outer shaping member, the outer shaping member having a ~~central~~ void ~~defined~~ centrally disposed therein for receiving at least a portion of the central absorbent member, whereby an interface is defined between the central absorbent member and the outer shaping member, the interface spanning a vertical distance; and

b) a wicking barrier disposed along a vertical distance of the interface between the central absorbent member and the outer ~~absorbent~~ shaping member, wherein the wicking barrier comprises a horizontal component spanning a horizontal distance on the body side surface of the absorbent core.

16. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 15, wherein the outer shaping member comprises a thickness, an edge width, and a basis weight, and the outer shaping member has a thickness of at least about 1 millimeter, an edge width of at least about 2 millimeters, and a basis weight of at least about 100 grams per square meter.

17. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 15, wherein the wicking barrier further comprises a horizontal component spanning a distance of at least about 1 millimeter on the surface of the absorbent core.

18-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a longitudinal direction, a transverse direction, a vertical direction substantially normal to both the longitudinal and transverse directions, and a body side, the absorbent article comprising:

a) an absorbent core having a body side surface, the absorbent core comprising an outer absorbent member having a ~~central~~ void centrally disposed therein, the centrally disposed void open toward the body side of the absorbent article, and a central absorbent member disposed over the ~~central~~ centrally disposed void of the outer absorbent member and extending into the centrally disposed void;

b) a wicking barrier disposed between the outer absorbent member and the central absorbent member, the wicking barrier at least in part is liquid pervious and comprising a vertical component and a horizontal component, the vertical component spanning a vertical distance between the outer absorbent member and the central absorbent member, and the horizontal component spanning a horizontal distance on the body side surface of the absorbent core; and

c) at least one of a topsheet and a backsheet disposed directly adjacent the absorbent core.

30. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of claim 29, comprising both a topsheet and a backsheet disposed adjacent the absorbent core on opposite sides thereof.

31. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 29, wherein the wicking barrier comprises an apertured polymeric film.

32. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 29, wherein the wicking barrier comprises a spunbond web.

33. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 29, wherein the wicking barrier has a liquid permeability gradient such that the wicking barrier is more liquid permeable away from the body side of the article.

34. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 29, wherein the wicking barrier is a fluid impervious film provided with fluid pervious pores remote from the body side surface of the absorbent core.

35. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 34, wherein the pores in the wicking barrier are about 1 mm or greater below the surface of the outer absorbent member.

36. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 29, wherein the central absorbent member further comprises an outer perimeter and a center, and the wicking barrier is adapted to establish a pathway for fluid flow from the center of the central absorbent member to the outer perimeter of the central absorbent member.

37. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 29, wherein the wicking barrier comprises multiple vertical layers of barrier material.

38. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 29, comprising a topsheet and wherein the topsheet is provided with at least one fold to form an elevated runoff barrier.

39. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 29, wherein the central absorbent member comprises a plurality of vertically oriented layers of nonabsorbent material.